LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

MECHANICS' COFFEE AND READING ROOMS.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune. SIR: Will you permit me through the columns of your excellent paper to say a few words respecting this movel enterprise, the object and operations of which, I think, need only to be understood to be appreciated. Being myself a mechanic (residing in the 'reome," situated on the corner of Avenue D and Tenth street), it is but natural that I should feel a lively interest in whatever is calculated to benefit or accommodate those of my profession. I have frequented these rooms since they were opened, and an happy to say have ever found them a comfortable, pleasant and entertaining place of resort. All the leading daily papers in New-York, and papers from the principal cities in the United States, with an abundant supply of magazines, may here be found; the free use of which is extended to all. A free library, also, containing many valuable works, has just been added. The only serious detriment to this excellent movement, The only serious detriment to this excellent movement The only serious detriment to the excellent movement, thus far, has manifested itself in the calinary department; which, embarrassing as it has been could not as I understand, be remedied till now. A change however, has been effected; and judging from the apparent perseverance and affable bearing of the gentled. parent perseverance and affable bearing of the gentle-man selected to manage this department in future (whose name I am unable to give), I am inclined to thirk it is a change greatly for the better. These rooms have been fitted up and put into operation un-der the supervision of Mr. Burdick, of the Children's Aid Society. A glance at the facilities for enjertain-ment here afforded will satisfy even the most casual observer that comfort, convenience, economy and taste have all been thoroughly consulted in their avangement; and the judgment, skill, and just apbeerver that comfort, converted to their arrangement; and the judgment, skill, and just appreciation of the wants of the people, manifested, by which these requisites have been so happily bleuded and introduced, is ample evidence of Mr. Bardick's a mirable qualification for the work which he has so fortunately accomplished. This movement, I understand, is designed as essent of offset, in point of attraction, to the drinking and gambling hells that infest this city, particularly the portion in the vicinity of "Dry Dock." It is intended to afford every reasonable facility for comfort, improvement and social intercourse. The workingman may bring his dinner here, and be supplied with hot coffee or teal, or he may be furnished with a partial meal or full meal, as he may desire. Such estables as comport with the character of these Rooms as "Coffee and Reading-Rooms," may at any time be obtained on the most reasonable terms. Here the honest, toiling mechanic will receive a cordial well. time be obtained on the most reasonable terms. For the honest, toiling mechanic will receive a cardial welcome and the quiet of a home. Here, comfortably seated amid pleasant associations, with the "substantials of life" before bim, his cup of steaming Java in one hand, and paper, book, or magazine in the other, he may at the same time regale himself with nonrishment suited both to the physical and in the distributional may. Here he will find a place for social, telectual man. Here he will find a place for social, intellectual, and moral improvement, where he may at any time pleasantly and profitably spend his leisure. With such attractions before him, where, I will ask, is the mechanic with any just pretenzions to respectabil
ty—one worthy of his noble calling—worthy to rank i
a vocation honorable in the highest degree—worthy of a vocation honorable in the ingless accrete vocation honorable in the representative of a profession which it has been the "pride and glory" of such men as Frauklin, Futton, Burritt, Whitney, Whitemore, and a host of others to adorn—where, I ask, is one who will so bemean himself as to visit vile groggeries and dens of dissipation? For the credit of humanity it is to be hoped there are but few such.

This is the first enterprise of the kind in this city, and one of the very best yet started. It is very desirable that the experiment prove a successful one, and these Kooms become a favorite and popular place of resort to the working man. Let it have the patronage and learty cooperation of every friend of the New York, March 31, 1858. MECHANIC.

FREE TRADE IN WOOL.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Under the above heading I notice an article in your paper of 22d inst., signed "Oaondags Farmer," which opens with the forcible remark: "The long-"threatened blow is about to fall on the wool growers of the United States." Is not that the doctrine you have long been inculcating in your paper ! That destroying the wool-manufacturing establishments must in the end be feit by the wool growers? The manufacturer, despairing to receive anything like protection, with the hope that the relief which justice would afford might be obtained now, asks that the raw material should not pay a greater duty than the manu-Sectured article; that the duty now levied on wool and dyestuffs may be taken off, and they be admitted free woolen goods pay an ad valorem duty of 30 per cent, and woolen goods pay an ad valorem duty of the same. But does not the Onondaga Farmer know that foreign cioths, which he thinks cheap enough at \$3 a yard, have paid by means of foreign invoices a duty of 30 cents, instead of 90 cents; that this duty of 30 per cents, instead of 90 cents; that this duty of 30 per cents, instead of 90 cents; that this duty of 30 per cents, in the duty of 30 per cents, in the duty of 30 per cents. cents, instead of 90 cents; that this duty of 30 per cent is not specific—is not on valuation here, but is governed by the foreign invoice? Does he not see how easy it is for a few German or Belgian manufacturers to send their agent to New York, and have him secure orders from importers for such goods as they may require, and when the goods arrive, send the invoice of them to this agent at a dollar a yard—goods that may be worth two dollars when they left the factory? And may we not suppose that this has been extensively done, since our Government has made a step just in the right-scrong way to check it; that is, by sending instructions to our Consuls abroad to examine into this matter and see that invoices are correct. These Consuls are many of them foreigners by birth and education, residence and interest. Their interests may not be supposed to lead them to a very rigid admay not be supposed to lead them to a very rigid adherence to their instructions. Besides, "they work for pay;" and a few perquisites, that may perhaps be easily obtained, help amazingly. On the other hand, wools and dyestuffs furnish no such faullities for managing invokes. The price of the raw material is too much of a fixed fact—too well known to admit of it. On these there is no labor of making and finish to cover up in-stead of enhancing the value of the article. Does the "Farmer" not know that woolen cloths have been im-"Farmer" not know that woolen cloths have been imported and paid a less duty than would have been collected on the wool of which they were made. Well may be say "that the long threatened blow is about to "fall on the wool-growers of the United States." Of the 800 sets of machinery that were under the Tariff of '42 on broadcloths, how many does he suppose are making broadcloths now? Does he suppose he could find a tenth or a twentieth part of them. If he does he is simply mistaken, that is all. If he thinks the profits of manufacturing so great, why not close up the unprofitable business of growing wool and invest the proceeds in this profitable factory stock? He can find its much of it as he may want, and that too in the best conducted establishments at 50 cents on the dollar. If profitable to the present holders who have paid their hundred cents, does he not see that he could in this receive the double of their extravagant profits. paid their hundred cents, does he not see that profits, in this receive the double of their extravagant profits, in this receive the correctness.

paid their hundred cents, does he not see that he could in this receive the double of their extravagant profits. He proceeds to show by his figures—the correctness of which I do not propose to examine—that we do not need fine-weeks, because we are exporters of them; that the manufacturer, in his stubborn bindness to his cwn interests, "drives the grower to sending his fine "week to England and other countries, where labor and skill are cheaper than in the United States." If he thinks it is more profitable to pay two transportations on these wooks—that is, one on the wool, the other on the manufactured article—than it is to have some remedy devised by which they may be manufactured here, then he must be satisfied with his argument. And as long as these wools can be exported without paying any duty abroad, and returned and pay a less daty than in the fleece, so long will his profitable scheme be carried out, so long will manufactures centinue to be crushed out, and the farmer may some morting wake up to find "that the long-threatened" blow has fallen," and that "mutton is cheap"—yes, cheap enough to feed to his dogs. This may be good news to the starving thousands who are unable to pay "the 60 or 100 per cent advance on grain and meal and the products of the dairy," but not so good for those "who have sheep worth a hundred dellars each "to he world, and have given years and unwearied inclustry to this business." To make fine cloths there is no wool superior in strength of fiber to our wools; but the tradesman desires to see on the cloth he offers for sale a handsome finish—ay, and the "finimer" wants it on the cont he wears; but the manufacturers of our country do not know bow to put this on to their goods without a mixture of fits foreign wool—perhaps the "Onondaga Farmer" toes, and before I get through I will make him a manufacturers of our country do not know bow to put this on to their goods without a mixture of first foreign wool—perhaps the "Onondaga Farmer" stoes, and before I get through I will make him a proposition, so that he may put his skill into use. It is as plain as the wool on the sheep's back why we expert fine wool; the cloth can be worked through our Custom-Houses at a less rate of duty than the wool; and as the wool for beauty of finish, cannot be imported, per force the fine wools must be exported, and our mills; must struggle along, using coarse wools, making them into shries not coming into immediate competition with imported goods. The benefits to be derived from free importation of the raw material, to both-grower and manufacturer, I do not think necessary here to discuss; they have been more fully and ably set forth than I have either time or inclination to bestew, and need only to say, from practical experience, that they are sound; that the measure would have a beneficial influence on both parties. The interests of grower and manufacturer are identical; any course of measures that tends to injure or paralyze the one, must sooner or later affect the other. For the true interests of both, probably no system was better gdspied than that of '22, 30 far as weeken goods are

concerned. But whatever duty may be imposed, it should be en our own home valuation. Just picture to yourself, if you can, what a ridiculous figure Brother Jonathan cuts! Put him in his carbea and Brother Jonathan cuts! Put him in his carriar or dreez—white hat, striped pantaloons, and other et ceteras—bowing, with his hat in his hand, to a little swarthy mustached Belgian, with a "Please, Monsieur, what might be the value of these goods!" Would it not be more in accordance with the missiliness of his character and the free and independent institutions of which he boasts, to say to him, "Your

would it not be more in accordance with all most institutions of which he boasts, to say to him, "Your goods have such a value in this country, and if you with to make this country a market for them you must pay so much for the privilege; our manufacturers pay their tax for the support of Government, because your manufacturers is out of the reach of assessment here. You cannot be permitted to profit by the protection of our laws without paying your proportion on your goods. And now for my proposition to the "Ouondaga Faimer." I might, perhaps, say that it was open to any one, if it would not have the lock of sponging in an advertisement into a communication intended for a reply to his. He seems to have an itching for the profits of the manufacturer. His figures show the value of products to be \$43,267,345, and he adds, "These figures contradict the story of the manufacturer." I might show him where the \$18,500,000—and in some cases more with it—went but for the fear that it might deter him from accepting my proposition, which, if he accepts, may make him better understand "the mistaken greediness of the manufacturer. I "the mistaken greediness of the manufacturer. I and two other parties are the owners of a woolen manufactory, eligibly situated where labor and all the requirements of manufacturing are as cheap and as favorable as can be found at any point. This factory came into our hands at about one-fifth of its cost, and he can now have it, in first-rate running condition, everything perfect, at three fiths of that, with a clear title, free from all incumbrances; and if he should wish everything perfect, at three fitths of that, with a clear title, free from all incumbrances; and if he should wish to pay me for my share in land, stock, with sheep—not at three-lifths of one-lifth of first cost, but at a fair valuation—I should not be deterred from accepting it by the fear of "cheap matton." Manufacturer.

SATANIC PERVERSIONS.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune. SIR: On taking up The Herald of this morning. almost the first thing that struck my eye was the fol-

WOULD NOT ACCEPT PREEDOM-A CASE FOR THE "Would not accept Freedom—A Case for the Niger Worshipers.—About two years ago a negro woman named Diana was purchased from her owner, S. F. Goud, esq., of Edgefield, South Carolina, by abolitionists residing in this city. Among the coetributors to the fund for freeing her was the Rev. Heary Ward Beccher, whose rifle practice has gained him such notoricty lately. Diana came to this city and nursed her mother until she died, when, having no relatives or friends here, and being out of employment, she naturally crough desired to return to the home of her childhood, where her husband and childeren are still hung. Hearing that Col. M. Frazer, a neighbor of her former master, was in the city, she called upon him at the Astor House, and piteously begged of him to take her back to her old home, as she was heartily sick of freedom, and yearned like St. begged of him to take her back to her old home, as she was heartily sick of freedom, and yearned like St. Paul 'for her kindred after the flesh.' Col. Frazer consented to do so. Before leaving for the South yesterday, he brought her to The Herald office, to afford us another instance of the fact that a seasible negro prefers slavery, when it is associated with home comforts, to freedom such as the blacks experience at the hands of the nigger-worshipers at the North. Diana is a stout, healthy woman about forty years of age. She was originally bought for \$250, he owner freeing her for less than her worth, at the soficitation of her well-meaning but mistaken friends." of her well-meaning but mistaken friends.

To-morrow I expect to see the above copied into that paragon of newspapers, The Journal of Commerce, placed in some conspicuous part thereof, and prefaced with some remarks such as only an editor of The Journal school can give birth to. A few isolated cases like the above furnish abundant material for arguments in favor of Slavery with sheets of the cast of The Herald and Journal of Commerce.

And what does it all amount to ! Certainly not to prove that the poor negress loved the "peculiar institution" of the South, as these humane and Christian editors would make us believe. Far from it. It only evidences the strong affection this negro woman bear for her husband and children who are still fast bound in the fetters of Slavery at the South. They cannot come to her, and she with a love that a mother and wife alone can have, gives up Freedom for Slavery. And yet The Herald unblushingly says it " affords us another instance of the fact that a sensible negro prefers Slavery, where it is associated with home comforts, to Freedom, such as blacks experience at "the hands of the negro-worshipers at the North." What disgusting fallacy! It does appear as if our Slavery apologists have reached a point of moral degradation heretofore deemed almost unattainable.

"VIRGINIA RAMPANT."

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune. Six: I want to correct some errors of fact into which you have fallen in an editorial under the above head, published in THE DAILY TRIBUNE of the 4th inst.

You say, in substance, that the County of Loudoun, "opee highly fertile," has been "long since worn out "by slave cultivation;" that the immigration into that and neighboring counties from the North has given a great share of "the encouragement to undertake milroad projects, of which Alexandria is the termi-"nus;" and that such immigration has produced an anti-slavery meeting in Virginia, which has been "for

"many years unprecedentee."

I was born and "raised" in Virginia, in a county near Loudoun, and it happens that I have a pretty intimate knowledge of the place where the meeting mentioned was held, and of the people, history and condition of that county and its neighborhood. From condition of that county and its neighborhood. From that knowledge I am able to say that Loadoun County is as fertile and as judiciously cultivated—despite the existence of Slavery—as this County of Orange, or its existence of Slavery—as this County of Orange, of its neighbor, Dutchess; and either of the two may well be reckened among the best in the State of New-York. North-west of Dranesville (in Fairfax County) there is a narrow stretch of flat, unproductive clay land; but all of the County of Loudoun possessing a soil nat-urally good—and nineteen twentieths of it is of that quality—is well cultivated, and sells readily, when offered, at from \$40 to \$100 an acre. I think I speak within the truth when I say that around Goose Creek Meeting House (not Church, as THE TRIBUNE has it, an average farm would be considered cheap at \$60 per acre; yet it is distant from market, and much of it

per acre; yet it is distant from market, and much of it too rolling for easy cultivation.

There has been but very little immigration into Loudonn County from the North. Most of the lands purchased in that vicinity by northern gentlemen lie in Fairfax and Prince William counties. Stafford has a very few, and Spottsylvania quite a good many. The railroads of which you speak get but little aid from contacts actions. Their "enouragement" would be neithern settlers. Their "encouragement" would be willingly given, no doubt, were their circumstances but it happens that, with only a few exception they are poor men, very many of them rather poor farmers, and they have an abundance of nothing bu poor land, not exhausted by slave labor but naturally poor, and destined to remain poor until an increase of epulation or some favorable local circumstance sha pepulation or some laverable local circumstance shall warrant a heavy outlay for special manures. I could give the history of a farm which would satisfy the mest incredulous that something beside slave labor causes poverty in the white clay lands of Eastern Virginia. I am sure its owner—a near relative of mine—was forced to that conclusion. These railroads have been projected in order to bring the harvests of Londoun, Fancer and other countries. quier, Culpepper, Madison, Orange and other counties of the Picamont region, to Alexandria; and should you go in June or July to that levely land, you would never again doubt that Plenty has there one of her chosen seats, although Slave Labor sows the seed and

chosen seats, although Slave Labor sows the seed and gathers the harvest.

An Anti-Slavery meeting in Virginia is not "unprecedented." The meeting upon which you comment was held at a Meeting house belonging to the Society of Friends, who are religiously opposed to Slavery.

Mr. Hogue, and I think others named by you, belong to the Society; and I infer—although I have no information as to the fact—that many, if not a majority of these who were present, are Friends, or are connected in some way with them; for in that neighborhood the Friends compose a large part of the population. The recurrence related is not, therefore, very remarkable. There have been similar meetings in times not long gone by. Mr. Samuel M. Janney, a "speaker" of the Society, a man of fine talents and great excelence of character, made public speeches against Slavery only a few years ago. Mr. Janney is a Virginian by birth and education; and I know, from his own hips, that he is a devoted son of the Old Dominion; but he regards Slavery as a great evil. He contributed to The Richmond Whig, some years ago, a series of ingenious and able papers against Slavery as a question of political economy. I well recelled that, about twelve years ago, in a mixed company of Friends and slaveholders, he answered my objection that it was too soon for ago, in a mixed company of Friends and slaveholders, he answered my objection that it was too soon for abolition, by declaring that it was "never too soon to do right!" You will see from the foregoing, that even of late years, opposition to Slavery has been neither "unprecedented," secret, nor timid. It is true, in-"unprecedented," secret, nor timid. It is true, in-deed, that it is less common now than formerly; and I anticipate the almost entire extinction in the State of an Anti-Slavery sentiment. Whether that extinction

he for weal or for wo, the Anti-Slavery men of the

he for weal or for wo, the Ann-savery mean of the North have it to answer for.

I have now done what I purposed, when I commerced this letter. If the premises upon which you built your argument have no foundation, your inferences from them fail, of course. Those inferences

First: That, as slave labor has impoverished Londonn

were substantially:

First: That, as slave labor has impoverished Loudoun County, its effect is similar elsewhere.

Second: That immigration from the North has given encouragement to the building of railroads.

Third: That such immigration has disseminated an An: Slavery feeling.

Fourth: That the meeting at Goose Creek Meeting House is proof of a change in public opinion.

I shall not make any argument, further than follows necessarily from the statements I have given above; and from them I think I am warranted in the inference that slave labor has not injured the lands of Loudoun, and that Northern inneigration has neither built railroads, nor changed the sentiment of the people.

If you will allow me, I will add that Mr. Fred. Law Olimsted, in his late work on the "Scaboard Slave States," has fallen into some errors which are "unpredented" in a gentleman of intelligence and oandor. He was singularly unfortunate in his journeyings. His lines, certainly, were not cast in pleasant places; but it is much to be regretted that he has put forth a book which, though true, peradventure, in fact, is utterly erroreous in argument and spirit, because in it he amounces conclusions which have no better foundation than exceptional and isolated examples. If an English traveler should tell his people at home that in America the Judiciary can be bribed, we, on this side of the water, would denounce him. He could point, in answer, to the records of our Courts, in one or two cases. A Southern man might say that a went of "slave cultivation" makes land poor; and he could point for proof to some very indifferent land in Conneticut, and other Free want of "save cultivation makes land poor,"
and he could point for proof to some very
indifferent land in Conneticut, and other Free
States. He might say that the State of New York is a
wilderness, and point to much land in Orange, Sulli
van and Ulster counties where bears and wildeats
prowl to this very hour. He might say that literature van and Ulster counties where bears and while as prowl to this very hour. He might say that licerature had made but show progress comparatively at the North; and cite the fact that Alexandria, less in population than Newburgh or Poughkeepie, has two excellent daily papers, one of which has been published gaily for more than fitty six years. These, however, are but single facts, and they would not warrant any such conclusions, because there would be other suppressed facts affecting the result. I am in favor of Slavery, and below it to be a nearly social and budiest blessing to effecting the result. I am in favor of Slavery, and beheve it to be a moral, social and political blessing to the North and to the South; but I do not believe that it per se enriches or impoverishes the soil, any more than I can think Londoun County well cultivated because it has many Quakers among its people—virtuous and industrious as they certainly are—when I see the adjoining County of Jefferson still more productive without either Virginia Quakers or Northern Abolitionists. Your obedient servant, THOMAS GEORGE.

Newburgh, N. Y., April 5, 1856.

THE GRISWOLD DIVORCE CASE.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

Sin: Allow me to call your attention to an article published in THE TRIBUNE of this morning, headed 'The Griswold Divorce Case," and to point out briefly the misstatements and false conclusions con-

The Court, in their opinion denying the motion to

The Court, in their opinion denying the motion to vacate the decree of diverce, use the following language. I cite only those portions stating the conclusions to which they arrive:

"It was strenuously urged on the part of the respondent that none of the proceedings in the case had been regular; that the cause stated in the libel was utterly untrue; and that the proceedings were carried on while the respondent was kept in ignorance of them; that by this manner of connecting the case the behant had imposed upon the Court and transducintly obtained a decree in his taver."

"These politions are not, however, sustained by the evidence which has been submitted to an."

"But it is said on behalf of the respondent that the letter written by her was obtained by force and fraud, and should be row disregarded. This, however, is not sustained by the evidence, nor by her own statement in regard to it."

"Neither have we been able to discover any each gross fraud perpetrated upon the respondent or upon the Court as has been suggested on her behalf."

"The main ground, however, upon which we feel obliged trefuse the present motion is the uncertainty which exists as the fact of any divorce having been entered by the Court."

The Court, in prefacing their opinion, do indeed say, with entire impertinence to the grounds upon which the application was based, or upon which their decision rested, that "the indy who was married to the "libelant within a few days after the alleged decree "of divorce, had become engaged to him some time

of divorce, had become agree previously."

It is utterly false that, as this article asserts, "the decision of the Court has settled" either, "that Rufus W. Griswold was never divorced from the respondent," or that the lady named "intermarried with him with full knowledge that he was then the

"with him with full knowledge that he was then the "husband of another woman."

The Court traveled out of the record to say, very nunccessarily and very improperly, that the lady who was married to Dr. G. became engaged to him previously to the alleged decree, but nowhere that she into married with him with full knowledge that he was then the husband of another woman, and they say further (by reason of the disappearance of the records from the Prothenotary's office for which Dr. Griswold was in no way responsible or blame-worthy) "we are "compelled to decide that there is no sufficient evidence of a decree of divorce having been entered." "dence of a decree of divorce baving been entered THEODORE HINSDALE, No. 2 Hancrer street, New York, April 4, 1036.

POSTAL REFORM.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribuse.

Sin: I send you for publication in your columns, the following Petition, which has been prepared by the Postal Reform Committee in accordance with the resolutions adopted at the two public meetings held in this

the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representative

city:

"To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:
"The underlyined, citizens and residents of the City of New-York, respectfully represent to your Honorable Body, that they labor under great inconveniences in consequence of the impertections in our postal system.

"Your memorialists look upon the Post Office, in its relations to the people, as by far the most important Department of Government, and do not think that its value to the Nation is to be estimated by its income, or expenditure—by its cost, or the amount of its revenue. We are condicint that your Honorable Body, in your deliberations on this subject, will give the design and intention of the founders of our National Post-Office the most liberal interpretation, and make the Post at once cheep, reliable, and efficient, as a mensure distrated by every consideration of justice, economy, and sound national posicy.

"While desirous of expressing our obligations to the presiding officer of the Post-Office Department, and the Postmaster of this city, for various improvements in our city postal arrange ments, we are furney of the opinion that the numerous evils and imperfections of which we complain are inherent in the system, of long standing, and only to be removed by Legislative enactment.

"With a view, therefore, to meet these wants, and removed.

actions.
"With a view, therefore, to meet these wants, and remove the inconvenience that are seriously felt, your petitioners re-rectfully request that your Hemorable Body will frame also the inconveniences that are seriously used will frame alaw spectrally request that your Honorable Body will frame a law spectrally request that your Honorable Body will frame a law spectrally on the seriously of the CENTS on all letters not expected by the seriously of the United States.

"RECEIVING HOUSES AND LETTER CARRIERS in all cities and principal towns without exits charge.

MONEY ORDERS for sures not exceeding twenty-five dollars, to be drawn by the principal Post-Offices or each other.

A UNDORM AND LOW HATE OF OCCAS POSTAGE between the United State and foreign countries.

"THE POSTAGE ON ALL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS AND FRANKED MATTER, to be paid out of the Treasury.

"THE ABOLITION OF COMPULSORY PREPAYMENT; and double postage or all mail matter for prepaid.

"THE RETURN OF ALL DEAD LETTERS to the writers, and wherever possible without opening.

"And your petitioners will ever pray."

This memorial embodies the principles advanced in

the Committee's Address, and may well be considered as the almost universal public opinion in New York, so far as it could be obtained by a wide publicity, and a consultation of many individuals. It is to be hoped that the newspaper press will give it an extensive circulation, and that it will be received, adopted and acted upon by all who agree with the proposed measures of reform, and that these who do not will frame such a petition as will be acceptable, have it extensively signed, and forwarded to Washington at an early day. Every indication goes to show that these principles must be adopted in the framing of a judicious

postal law.

The "cheap uniform rate for printed matter" might The "cheap uniform rate for printed matter" might possibly be taken by some as a uniform postage for both letters and printed papers. The rate proposed is uniform so far as it enables us to pay for letters and transient papers and books with the same kind of stamps, but no further. The only rate spoken of in the Committee's Address for transient printed matter is a single letter postage (two cents) for any printed package up to four owners in weight, and four cents if over four and not over eight ounces; and regular periodicals and magazines, with the postage paid by the quarter or by the year, one-half of these rates. No rate of postage has been spoken of for regular newspapers, except the uniform charge of 20 cents a year. papers, except the uniform charge of 20 cents a year or five cents a quarter, for weekly papers; and in th or five cents a quarter, for weeksty papers; and in the same proportion when published oftener. This is a medium between the 13 cents and 26 cents now paid, with the double advantage of being a uniform rate, and a sum that can be divided without a fraction. These petitions are left at the most prominent pub-lic places in New-York, the Exchange, the reading-

lic places in New-York, the Exchange, the reading-rooms libraries, hotels, and many of the prominent book and dry goods stores. Extra copies can be obtained at Appleton's, Harper & Brothers', Stringer & Town-send's, J. T. Crowen's, the Astor House, the St. Nicholas, Metropolitan, Taylor's Saloon, and other places. The Committee's Address, with the Postal Reform principles, and form of petition, are nearly printed on letter and gote paper, and can be had of the

the principal booksellers and stationers, at the ordinary price of paper. It is hoped that this paper will be procured and used extensively to write letters en, thus giving the Postal Reform principles a wide circulation. The time for earnest, energetic action has arrived, and whatever the people show a determination to do, will undoubtedly be accomplished.

Very respectfully, year obedient servant, PLINY MILES.

Secretary of the Postal Reform Committee.

New-York, April 4, 1856.

ARREST OF A FREE MAN IN COVINGTON KIND FEELINGS PRODUCED BY RETURN OF

GAINES SLAVES.

From The Cincinnati Genetic.

Everybody knows Founten Le wis, the foreman in the old Frenchman (Ferrie's) barber-shop, on Fourth's reet, two doors west of Main. He has been there twelve or fourteen years. Yesterday Lewis had a check on the Farmers' Bank of Kentucky, from Mr. Swegert, of Frankfort. He offered it at a bank here, but it was refused, and he went over to the bank in Covingtion and collected it. As he was returning he met two men on the levee, who said he had "no business there no how," and demanded his free-papers. Dr. B. D. Wheeler, dentist, whose office is on Sixth street, near Elm, stepped up and vouched for Lewis—he had known him as a free man for twelve years—but they seemed. Eim, stepped up and votached for Lewis—but they seemed bin as a free man for twelve years—but they seemed to look upon him as an Abolitionist, because he lived in Chio, and would not take his testimony. Lewis thes said he kn. w a Covington lawyer by the name of Ste-venson, and Mayor Foley, and would go with them to either of them. They said that was n't their business;

must go to jail.

Dr. Wheeler thez remonstrated with the captain of Dr. Wheeler then remonstrated with the captain of the ferry-boat for not saying a word for Lewis, as he knew he had taken him over, or for not having told him that he would be in danger there. He replied brutally: 'I don't care a d-n about it. They can go over when they please, provided they pay me (three cents)—the h-ll of it is to get back.'

Dr. Wheeler came over on the boat, but the Kentuckians on beard manifested so much indifference about the kidnapping of a free man, that he felt that Lewis would find no one to take his part there, and he recovered to Skeen that they should go back together

proposed to Skeen that they should go back together and try to get him out. They applied to the jailor, but he reused to do anything. They then sought the Mayor.

or Foley told them the law under which Lewis was arrested was an old law, but had never been en-forced until since the requisition for Gaines's slaves— that they were now doing it for spite work; that every free negro could, by proving his freedom, and paying the cost, get a certificate from the Clerk, which was good for 30 days, but must be renewed at the end of every month.

every menth.

As soon as Mayor Foley saw Lewis he recognized him, and shook hands with him. Lewis had shaved him only last week. The Mayor told Dr. Wheeler he did not need his testimony; that he himself would vouch for him. He knew Lewis to be free, and would let him out for \$2. Lewis paid the \$2, and then wanted the Mayor to give him a pass to go to Cincinnati, but his Honor said the police were all at dinner then, and he could get over without it.

Accompanied by Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Skeen, he started for Ohio. On the ferry-hoat the same heat at

started for Ohio. On the ferry-boat (the same boat at which the arrest occurred, for there was only one boat which the arrest occurred, for there was only one boat running yesterday,) the captuin questioned him closely, and seemed strongly inclined not to let him pass. He could not believe a colored man to be free—at any rate, not on the testimony of any man from Ohio; but Dr. Wheeler and Mr. Skeen said they had already taken too much trouble about it to think of letting any man stop Lewis then, and the captain, seeing they were determined, finally concluded to let him pass.

So generous, hospitable Kentucky got—for nothing—two dollars of the hard earnings of a poor colored harber.

THE WILD MAN AGAIN.

A correspondent of The Caddo Gazette, writing under date of the 28th ult., from Parailifta, Arkansas, on Upper Red River, states that the cold during the present Winter has been in that region the severest within the memory of man. The rivers were frozen solid, the plains presented an unbroken sheet of snow. The writer relates the following story of an attempt to capture the famous wild man, who has been so often encountered on the borders of Arkansas and Northern

Louisiana:

"In my travels I met a party from your country in pursuit of a wild man. They had struck his trail at a cane-broke bordering on Brant Lake and the Sua-Flower Prairie. I learned from one of the party that the dogs ran him to an arm of the lake which was frozen, but not sufficiently strong to bear his weight, which consequently gave way. He had, however, crossed, and the dogs were at fault.

"One of the party, mounted on a flect horse, coming up, encouraged the dogs to pursue, but found it in possible to cross with his horse, and concluded to follow the lake round until he could ascertain the di-

coming up, encouraged the dogs to pursue, but found it impossible to cross with his horse, and concluded to follow the lake round until he could ascertain the direction taken by this monster of the forest. On reaching the opposite side of the bend, he was surprised to see something in the lake like like a man breaking the ice with his arms, and hastened under cover of the undergrowth, to the spot where he expected him to come out. He concealed himself near the place, when he had a full view of him, until he reached the shore, where he came out and shook himself. He represents him as a stout, athetic man, about six feet four inches in hight, completely covered with hair of a brownish cast about four to six in ches long. He was well muscled and ran un the bank with the flectures of a deer. cost about four to six hickes long. He was well mus-cled and ran up the bank with the flectness of a deer. "He says he could have killed him with his gun, but the object of the party being to take him alive, and hearing the horns of his comrades and the howling of the dogs on the opposite bank of the lake, cluded to ride up and head him, so as to bring the dogs on the opposite bank of the take, he concluded to ride up and head him, so as to bring him to bay and then secure their prize. So soon, however, as the wild man saw the horse and rider he rushed frantically toward them, and in an instant dragged the hunter to the ground and tote him in a most dreadful manner, scratching cut one of his eyes and lighting the other so much that his countedes despair of the recovery of his sight, and bitting large pieces out of his shoulders and various parts of his body. The monster then tore off the saddle and bridle from the horse and destroyed them, and holding the horse by the mane, broke a short piece of sapling, and mounting the animal, started at full speed across the plains in the direction of the mountains, guiding the horse with his club. The person left with the wounded man informed me that the party was still is pursuit, having been joined by a hand of friendly Indians, and thought that if they could find a place in the mountains not evered with snow, or a canebrake in the vicinity to feed their horses, they might overtake him in a day or two."

A YANKEE BIGAMIST IN KENTUCKY .- The Boseling Green (Ky.) Standard gives the following account of n occurrence in Munsferdsville, in the same State,

A Daguerreian artist, with a lady who was not his A Degicerreian artist, with a lady who was not alse wife, had been operating in the quiet town aforesaid, the gentieman taking pictures and the lady teaching music, for some months. They had gotten music, instruments and all necessary et ceteras, and were meeting with great success. Both halled from Yankee land. On Friday, the 7th, they were scated at the dimer-table, edifying the natives with the following wonderful dialogue. Mr. Penbroke (the gentleman's

dimer-table, edifying the natives with the following wonderful dialogue. Mr. Penbroke (the gentleman's name), addressing his dear lady, said:
"There seems, my dear, to be some prejudice in Kentucky against us Yankees."
"O, yes," she replied; "but you and I will leave no grounds for prejudice; we'll clear ourselves, and"—"Mr. Penbroke, allow me to introduce you't to the Sheriff of Nelson County," said a hourse voice behind him. The Sheriff then, upon a warrant, proceeded to handcuff aforesaid Penbroke and lady.

The facts are these: Penbroke had living in the East a wife and one child; the lady had living in New-York a husband and two children. But Cupid being strouger than law or duty, they cloped to the Far West to live as husband and wife! The man who introduced the Sheriff was the lady's father, who, immediately on seeing his daughter, fainted. He reedes in New-York, is a man of great wealth, and had lavished vast sums a man of great wealth, and had lavished vast sum upon his only daughter, whom he tenderly loved. He followed them 1,700 miles when he found them. She is young, beautiful and accomplished, and married well. Here, indeed, was a bankruptcy of the heart. The guilty pair were placed in a vehicle in company with the wretched father, and are now 'gone East.'

PORRIBLE TRAGEDY IN LOVISIANA .- The Nachitockes (La.) Chronicle of the 22d ult, gives the following account of the murder of John Rodrigo by his wife and her paramour. Matthew Bresente:

"Rodrigo having what he thought just grounds to suspect his wife's fidelity, threatened to bring her to a sense of virtue. For this she had him bound over to keep the peace. The paramour of the had woman then contrived the idea of getting rid of the husband. A few nights afterward he and the wife seized Rodrigo while asleep, and after binding him hand and foot, dragged him about a mile from the house, where, plac-ing a rope round his neek, in suite of his prayers and ing a rope round his neck, in spite of his prayers and shricks for mercy, they hung him and beat him to death with a stick. After the guilty parties had succeeded shricks for herely, they hand had succeeded in killing their unfortunate victim, they covered the body with legs, sticks and such things. After a lapse of nearly a mouth, Gabriel Rosales, who had been forced by threats to accompany the murderers and with act to the Coroner of the parish, whereupon the man Bresente and his paramour Juana were arrested, On

accompanying the witness to the s pot which was designated by him, the body of the mardered man was found. The murderers were c amined before Justice Payne and committed to jail. Since the commitment Bresente has confessed his grait."

MOUNT VERNON. - Gre at surprise has been expressed at the South, within & .ew days, at the publication of

of the United States.

"In reply, I respectfully inform you that Mount Vernon is not for sale.

"I am, most respectfully, our obedient servant, join A. WASHINGTON."

The Virginia papers, in asswer to this epistle, publish the official correspondence between Mr. Washington and Gov. Johnson of Virgnia, that took place last year, in which the former offered "200 acres of Mt. Vernon, embracing the tomb of Washington, mansion, gar "dens, grounds," etc. for \$200,000 to the State of Virginia, and named the terms of payment and other details, and closing with this additional proposition:

"It has sometimes been suggested that the State might wish to purchase a larger tract of land, in order might wish to putche and agricultural school here. Should such be the case, about 800 acres more of adjacent land on this state can be obtained at \$100,000, to be paid in cashor State stock, as above, at the option of the State.

"I am, Sir. with the utmost respect,
"Your obedient servant,

"Your obelies to evant,
"Your obelies to evant,
"JOHN A. WASHINGTON.
"His Excellence, Jos. Johnson, Governor of Virginia."
The Petersbirg (Va). Express publishes the South Carolina letter of Mr. Washington, with these com-

ments:

"For some time past, unfavorable suspicions of Mr. Washington's good faith in the matter of the purchase have been whispered about, and the exorbitant nature of his original demand of \$200,000 for a piece of property whose market value cannot exceed one tenth that amount, lest some probability to the saggestion that he was discosed to make the most of the sacred ashes intrusted to his keeping. Can it be possible that he designs at this moment to recede from his quasi contract to dispose of the land with a view of fixing a yet higher price upon it, and drawing still more largely upon the patriotism of the country, now likely to be stinulated into unwonted fervor by the glowing eloquence of Edward Everett?

"We cannot believe this of any man bearing the name of Washington, and in any degree, however remotely, related to Pater Patria." For some time past, unfavorable suspicions of Mr.

RIM AND MURDER IN PENNSYLVANIA .-- On Sunday ast as a Mr. Colwell of Crossingville, Pa., was attempting to arrest a man named Gilbert Cutler, of the same place, for a violation of the liquor laws, an alterca ion took place, in which Colwell was badly beaten with clubs and stones, and Cutler was shot in the abdomen, the ball lodging in the spine. It is feared that both will die from the effects of their injuries. Colwell is said to have since become insane.

George Washington Johnson, an American merchart at Maracaibo, and for many years a resident of that place, was drowned while crossing the harbor on the 13th of March. He leaves no relatives at Maracaibo, but it is supposed he has a brother in Phila-

SALT FOR WHEAT .- Theodore Perry says, in The Prairie Farmer, that he sowed one and a half bushels of salt per acre upon one half of a ten-acre field, just after seeding it with Spring wheat, and the result was that the salted portion was ready for the sickle five days earlier than the unsalted portion, and not a particle of rust, scab or smut could be found, and the increase of erop he estimated at five bushels per acre.

The Electric Eel.—Of the singular powers of this wonderful creature much has been written, and some things said, which appear almost incredible. This fish abounds in the rivers of North and South Carelina, and many of its wonderful exploits are recounted and recorded there. In the waters of Massachus its Bay it is so seldom seen that the following circumstances seem worth relating, and are in the narrator's own words. Captain Walker of Provincetown recently, while running a schooner from that place to Boston, was overtaken by aight off Cobasset Rocks, and was running into Boston Channel in the evening. At about 8 o'clock, it being very dark, and his vessel moving slowly in, he dropped over his lead to ascertain the depth of water, and on slowly pulling in the line he felt something cold upon it, and thinking it might be a bit of kelp or rockweed, was about to throw it off, when it fastened upon he hand and coiled around his wrist. He endeavored to shake off the cel, when suddenly bringing its tail around, it struck his arm with considerable force, and giving the worthy captain such a shock as sent him reeling to the deck. Recovering a little, he proceeded to seize the fish and cast it overboard, when he received a second shock from the little battery, that caused him to call for aid, uttering a scream that must have been heard for miles. Determined not to be overcome by so pairty an object, as a smell eel, he proceeded once more to discharge his eelship, but was a third time repulsed, and with greater force than before, laying him prostrate at fall length upon deck. His men immediately ran to the rescue, and bore the captain almost senseless aft, where medical aid could be administered. Never rescue, and bore the captain almost senseles where medical aid could be administered. having heard of such wonderful power of the eleceel, the greatest consternation prevailed, and, the vessul rushing on in the thick darkness, they knew not where, the anchors were got out with much difficulty, and they waited impatiently the return of day, actually supposing some evil spirit had seized upon them, and that for the night they were to be the sport of their orgice.

[Yarmouth Register.

MANUFACTURE OF GAS.—The process of makin Manufacture of Gas.—The process of making coal-gas is much simpler than many people imagine. Bituminous coal is thrown into a hot evilider of Iron, the mouth of which is closed carefully by an iron door with the edges cemented with soft clay. The vapor arising from the coal is received into a tube, by means of which it is permitted to escape into a sortes of vessels, where it is cooled and deposits much of its impure matter. It is then passed into another series of vessels containing quicklime, which robs it of its sulpturous and other intermixtures. From this receiver it flows parified, as we find it in use into the gasometer, and is from thence distributed as may be needed, through mains and service pines, into various parts of the city. The from thence distributed as may be needed, through manus and service pipes, into various parts of the city. The highly-charged bittuminous coals are found best adapted to the purpose of gas-making. In the manufactures of gas from Newcastle coal, a chaldron weighing 27 cwt. is found to yield 8,650 cubic feet of gas, 14 cwt. of coke, 12 gallons ammonical liquor, 12 gallons of thick tar. Caunel coal will yield upon an average thick tar. Carnel coal will yield up. 16,000 cubic feet of gas to the chaldron. [Frankford (Pa.) Herald,

16,000 cubic feet of gas to the chaldron.

[Frankford (Pa.) Herald,
Shocking Murder.—For a day or two past a rumor has prevailed in the city that a Mr. Burden, living in Newbern, Greene Co., in this State, had been murdered. The rumor proves to be correct. By a letter written from Greene, dated 30th ult., we learn that on the night of the 26th some person unknown threw a stone through a glass window at Mr. Burden while setting in his bed-room. The damaged glass was not repaired through the following day, Thursday, and at night, after Mr. B. had retired to bed, and while Mrs. B. and the children were in an adjoining room, a gun was thrust through the aperture in the window and discharged, the contents lodging in the head of Mr. B. and "blowing it into fragments."

Although the report of the gun was heard, and its result immediately ascertained, the efforts to secure the perpetrator of the deed were unsuccessful.

[Mobile Daily Trib. April 5.]

DESPERATE ATTEMPT AT HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND MUEDER-ESCAPE OF THE RUFFLANS.—On Saturday evening last, about 12 o'clock, as Ald. Sexton was pro-ceeding homeward on Michigan avenue, near Twelfth he was met by two ruffians, who struck him with in the face and attempted to knock him down, street, he was met by two ruffians, who struck him with a club in the face and attempted to knock him down, falling which one of them presented a six-shooter at his heart, and just as he pulled the trigger Ald. Sexton struck the hand with the pistol downward, which discharged fits contents in his thigh, making a flesh wound. The other ruffian at the same time attempted to take his watch from his pocket; but by a free use of his fists and feet the Alderman drove them off, and was also a but did not succeed in arresting either of gave chase, but did not succeed in arresting either o

gave chase, but did not succeed in arresting either of them.

[Chicago Press, March 31.

The Firth Wife.—We learn from The Covagion (Ky.) Journal that a few days ago Judge Perrin of that town married a man for the fifth time. A singular feature in the case is, that the fifth wife was also the third wite. The third marriage not proving a happy one, the parties separated and were divorced. The man married sgain, and when death claimed his fourth wife, the disconsolate widower returned to No. 3, and again wooed and won her. Judge Perrin thinks that he has tied them up effectually this time. The lucky man had the impudence to claim a reduction of the marriage fee in consequence of the large business

the marriage fee in consequence of the large business he was doing in that line.

A. La Grange, who was recently mulcted in the sum of \$9,000 damages for a breach of promise of marriage with and seduction of Miss Elizabeth Campbell, has very wisely negotiated a marriage with the fair prosecutive. This is one of the most sensible things that. cutrix. This is one of the most sensible thing: that Mr. L. could possibly have done. [Alb. Knick.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

EMINENT AMERICAN MERCHANTS. L LIVES OF AMERICAN MERCHANTS. By FREEWAR HUNT, A. M. SVO, vol. I. 2 MEMOIR OF THOMAS HANDASYD PERKINS. By THOMAS G. CARY. SVO., Pp. 394. Little, Brown & Co. The indefatigable editor of "Hunt's Merchants"

hagazine" has formed the design of issuing a series of volumes devoted to American mercantile biography. The first volume of this series contains the lives of twenty-one distinguished merchants of this country, including that of Peter Breeks by Edward Everett, James Gore King a. 3 Samuel Ward by Charles King, Nicholas Brown, Stephen Girard, Matthew Carey by the Editor. Jacob Lorillard by Wm. Berrian, Samuel Appleten by Ephraim Peabody, Jones Chickering by John L. Blake, Patrick T. Jackson by John A. Lowell, and others. The second work named at the head of this article consists of the Memoir of Col. Perkins, prepared for the Mercantile Biography, with several additions, chiefly of extracts from diaries and letters descriptive of scenes in foreign travel. Mr. Hunt's project of illustrating the lives of

our most prominent mercantile countrymen is one

which cannot fail to be received with satisfaction

by intelligent readers of all classes. The manner

in which the present specimen has been executed is such as to inspire confidence in the accuracy, atility and popular interest of the work. Compiled from ample materials, written, is the main, without the exaggeration of eulogy, and abounding in details of sturdy, practical life, these sketches present an instructive commentary on the influence of free political institutions, and in several instances a noble example of integrity, benevelence and high-mindedness in the pursuit of the commercial profession. A large number of the merchants commemorated in this volume were of humble origin, and owed their fortunes to persons enterprise, industry and sagacity. Few of them inherited either wealth or other facilities for success, but carved out their own prosperity by dint of vigorous and well-directed exertions. Peter C. Brooks, for instance, a well-known millionaire of Boston, was the son of a country elergyman i. the State of Maine. At the decease of his father the family were left in narrow circumstances, and for some time his boyhood was occupied in the labors of a farm. Stephen Girard left his native country in the capacity of a cabin-boy, with no education but a smattering of the elements of reading and writing. Samuel Ward, though descended from one of the most honored families in the annals of Rhode Island, was prevented by the restricted means of his father from obtaining a collegiste education, and when he entered a countinghouse at the age of fourteen, had received only the ordinary instruction of an English school. Thomas Eddy, who received by general consent the appellation of the "Howard of America," was first sent an apprentice to a tanner in Burlington, N. J. After two years' experience in that line, he decides upon seeking his fortune in New-York, and came to this city with a capital of less than one hundred dollars. For some time after his arrival he was "obliged to live by his wits," and found it hard "to defray his necessary expenses." Early in his business career, he became a bankrupt, though he subsequently paid every cent of his just liabilities. Jacob Lorillard commenced life without the advantages even of an ordinary education, and entered upon business with only a thousand dellars capital of his own. Gidoon Lee was a farmer's boy in the employment of an ancle, "feeding and milking cows," till he become an apprentice to the tanning and shoemaking business. " Many a time," says he " long before light in the morning, I was started off in the cold and snow without shoes to my work and used to think it a luxury to warm my frozen feet on the spot just just before occupied by the animal I had roused." Samuel Appleton was a famous district schoolmaster in a little New-Hampshire town, till he undertook to clear up a settlement in the wilderness of Maine. But as " handling the ax and guiding the plow" were not to his taste, he changes his business to that of country trader, and at length his way to Boston, where he commenced acareer of signal prosperity. The means by which most of the merchants, whose lives are here given, attained to wealth and distinction, presents an instructive lesson. They

were not eager for sudden gains, embarked in no bazardons speculations, were not addicted to doubtful or illegitimate courses of trade, but gained their fortunes by the regular accumulations of commercial industry. Mr. Brooks, we are informed, abstained from speculative operations throughout his active career. After his retirement from business, he pursued the same policy. He never made purchases of unproductive real estate, on a calculation of future enhanced value. While willing to lead his funds for the benefit of solid, well-conducted corporations, he was reluctant to engage in manufactures, and regarded railroad stocks, generally speaking, as precarious property. Nor would he ever consent, on any pretense, to receive more than legal interest for the loan of his money, though on several occasions, for public objects, he lent large sums at an interest below the legal and current rate. Connected with this habit was his rule never to berrow money. With a single exception, his name was probably never subscribed to a note of hand. What he could not accomplish by present means he left unattempted. He was equally averse to indersing for others. However brilliant the promise of future gain, he shunned every transectien which required the use of borrowed means. Mr. Lorillard pursued a similar course in the acquisition of his immense wealth. It was a favorite remark of his that his prosperity arose from not having made haste to be rich. He indulged in so wild and uncertain schemes, which risk the earnings of a life on the chances of the day, but was content with the regular avails of his legitimate business. Whatever surplus he might have was invested in real estate, selected often in obscure and retired places, which had no attractions for the speculator, but which premised security and mederate increase of value. An anecdote in point related of Mr. Gideon Lee, who advanced from the lap-stone to a high degree of commercial eminence For many years he resided at his country seat in Bloomingdale. "In the rage for speculations real estate, he was importuned to sell his place; he named a price for it to a friend, who immediately purchased it; the sum was not the half of what he readily could have obtained. He was much acnoyed by the remarks of gentlemen, who spoke w him on the subject. 'I asked,' said he, 'for it, what it has cost me; it is all that the place is intrinsically worth, and I am satisfied. I have acquired what property I possess in fair, legitimate trade; I have no desire hereafter to be represented with having participated in the speculations now going on. Some one must lose money by them; is shall never be said any of it went into my pockets